

SSB 6618 - H COMM AMD
By Committee on Appropriations

ADOPTED 03/02/2006

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** In 1993 the Washington legislature laid out
4 a vision of a revitalized school system in Washington state.
5 Envisioned was a comprehensive assessment system committed to high
6 academic standards for all of its students. The Washington assessment
7 of student learning was created as a tool to measure whether students
8 were reaching the high academic standards. The legislature continues
9 to support this assessment as a part of a comprehensive assessment
10 system. Recently some alternative assessments have been developed.
11 The legislature finds that there is interest in exploring why some
12 students have not been able to meet the state standards and whether
13 additional alternative methods, options, procedures, or performance
14 measures could be used to augment the current system.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The Washington state institute for
16 public policy shall conduct a study to explore options to augment the
17 current system of assessments to provide additional opportunities for
18 students to demonstrate that they have met the state learning
19 standards. The study is limited to:

20 (a) A review and statistical analysis of Washington assessment of
21 student learning data to increase understanding of the students who did
22 not meet the standard in one or more areas of assessment, identify the
23 characteristics of those students, and identify possible barriers to
24 student success or possible causes of the lack of success;

25 (b) A review and identification of additional alternative
26 assessment options that could be used to augment the current assessment
27 system. In identifying the alternative assessment options, the
28 institute shall include a review of alternative assessments used in
29 other states as well as those that have been developed and those that

1 have been proposed in Washington. The institute shall examine the use
2 of national tests as well as career skill certification exams in their
3 review of possible alternative assessment options. For each of the
4 identified alternative assessment options, the study shall at a minimum
5 include:

6 (i) An estimation of the costs for implementation;

7 (ii) A review of the cultural appropriateness;

8 (iii) Whether the alternative assessment reliably measures a
9 student's ability to meet state learning standards in one or more of
10 the required content areas;

11 (iv) Whether the alternative assessment is in compliance with RCW
12 28A.655.061(1); and

13 (v) Any challenges to implementation for each of the identified
14 alternative assessment options, including any legislative action
15 necessary for implementation;

16 (c) A review and identification of additional alternative methods,
17 procedures, or combinations of performance measures, including those
18 proposed in Washington, to assess whether students have met the state
19 learning standards. For each of the identified alternative methods,
20 procedures, or performance measures, the study shall at a minimum
21 include:

22 (i) An estimation of the costs for implementation;

23 (ii) A review of the cultural appropriateness;

24 (iii) Whether the method, procedure, or performance measure
25 reliably measures a student's ability to meet state learning standards
26 in one or more of the required content areas;

27 (iv) Whether the method, procedure, or performance measure is in
28 compliance with RCW 28A.655.061(1);

29 (v) Any challenges to implementation for each of the identified
30 methods, procedures, or performance measures, including any legislative
31 action necessary for implementation; and

32 (vi) Whether the procedures or methods could be standardized across
33 the state.

34 (2) The Washington state institute for public policy shall provide
35 an interim report to the legislature by December 1, 2006, and a final
36 report by December 1, 2007. The interim report shall include a
37 preliminary statistical analysis of the information required under
38 subsection (1)(a) of this section and shall include recommendations on

1 at least two alternative assessment options, alternative methods,
2 procedures, or performance measures that were reviewed under subsection
3 (1)(b) and (c) of this section. The final study shall include
4 suggestions for any follow-up studies that the legislature could
5 undertake to continue to build on the information obtained in this
6 study.

7 (3) The institute shall consult, at a minimum, with nationally
8 recognized experts on assessments including representatives from
9 nationally recognized centers for multicultural education,
10 representatives of the office of the superintendent of public
11 instruction, educators, counselors, parents, the business community,
12 classified employees, career and technical organizations,
13 representatives of federally recognized Washington tribes,
14 representatives of cultural, linguistic, and racial minority groups,
15 and the community of persons with disabilities in developing the
16 initial list of possible alternative assessment options, alternative
17 assessment methods, procedures, or performance measures to be reviewed
18 under subsection (1)(b) and (c) of this section.

19 (4) The office of the superintendent of public instruction and
20 school districts shall provide the institute with access to all
21 necessary data to conduct the studies in this act.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act shall be known as the Governor
23 Booth Gardner Act."

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